

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCES/METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2006

CDU/CSU Party leaders are speculating that Schaeffer will be replaced by Dr. Heinrich Weitz, the former CDU Minister of Finance in North Rhine Westphalia. Weitz would also be acceptable to the left wing of the CDU/CSU. Chancellor Adenauer's favorite candidate for the job is believed to be Dr. Hans-Joachim Prechtel, Frankfurt banker. Any appointment would provide an additional spur to the formation of a Grand Coalition after the elections.

Source Comment: Although Bonn political circles have become accustomed to Schaeffer's repeated threats to resign, it appears that he is determined to do so this time unless his conditions for maintaining financial stability are accepted. He no longer has anything to gain by threatening to resign as he had in the past when he could almost invariably depend on the CSU to support him. Now that Schaeffer's chief antagonist is Defense Minister Strauss, also of the CSU, the best that Schaeffer can expect is a split of the CSU delegation in the Bundestag on his cause. Schaeffer cannot, therefore, depend on parliamentary support for his conservative fiscal policies. He is now convinced that there is nothing he can do to prevent the budget from becoming unbalanced in this election year. Schaeffer, now 63 years old, has also been in poor health and finds it difficult to keep up with the demands of his job.

145 -
Field Comment: The 19 December issue of der Spiegel carried an item in the personalities column, (page 56) in which Johnnieser is quoted as saying to party colleagues after his budget speech in December, "That was my last budget speech, you can depend on that."

872-272

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

Adopt a Child